

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figs 10-17. These sheets, which include Figs. 10-17, replace the original sheets including Figs. 10-17. The designation CONVENTIONAL ART has been added to Figs. 10-17. Support for CONVENTIONAL ART is provided on at least pages 28 and 29 of the present application.

Attachment: Replacement sheets

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated May 4, 2006, claims 2-10 and 12-14 are amended.

Claims 1-15 are now active in this application. No new matter has been added.

Dependent claims 2-10 and 14 are amended only to change “A” to “The” and not to change the scope thereof.

OBJECTION TO SPECIFICATION

The Examiner objects to the ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE due to a minor grammatical error occurring in lines 1 and 2. By his response, the ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE is amended to address this minor grammatical error.

OBJECTION TO CLAIMS

Claims 1, 11 and 15 are objected to as the Examiner believes that in claims 1 and 11, “the non-loop process of the loop process” (line 19 and 19, respectively) are not clear, and in claim 15 “a non-loop process of a loop process” (lines 6-7) and “the non-loop process” (line 7) are not clear.

With regard to the objection to claims 1, 11 and 15, it is believed that the Examiner is not reading the limitations correctly. What was intended was that there is a loop process *and* a non-loop process. Among these two processes, at least the non-loop process is executed.

To expedite prosecution, claim 1 has been amended to recite, “...for executing at least the non-loop process amongst the loop process and the non-loop process...” Claim 11 has been similarly amended. In addition, claim 15 has been amended to recite, *inter alia*:

a loop control portion for outputting a control signal, for executing at least a non-loop process amongst a loop process and the non-loop process, to at least one of the plurality of logical operation sections...

It is believed that the amendments to claims 1, 11 and 15 clarify what is intended. Consequently, withdrawal of the objection to claims 1, 11 and 15, as amended, is respectfully solicited.

As the Examiner indicates that claims 1-11, 14 and 15 are allowable over the prior art of record, it is believed that claims 1-11, 14 and 15, as amended, are allowable over the prior art of record also.

REJECTION OF CLAIM 12 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claim 12 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory matter.

To expedite prosecution, claim 12 has been amended to recite:

An apparatus having a central processing unit (CPU) and a memory coupled to said CPU, the memory storing a control program for causing the CPU to execute a behavioral synthesis method according to claim 11.
It is submitted that amended claim 12 is directed to a statutory subject matter.

Consequently, the allowance of amended claim 12 is solicited.

OBJECTION TO CLAIM 13

The Examiner has indicated that claim 13 is objected to, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

By this response, claim 13 has been amended to recite:

A computer program product comprising a computer-readable recording medium storing a control program for causing a computer to execute a behavioral synthesis method according to claim 11.

Since claim 13 originally depended from claim 12, which depends from claim 11, amended claim 13 is believed to be allowable.

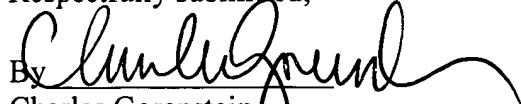
CONCLUSION

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Edward J. Wise (Reg. No. 34,523) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: August 4, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Charles Gorenstein
Registration No.: 29,271
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP
8110 Gatehouse Road
Suite 100 East
P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000
Attorney for Applicant

Attachments: Replacement Drawings


CG/EJW/vd